



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 1

Meeting Date: November 28, 2007

Meeting Location: Lake County Juvenile Justice Center
3000 West 93rd Avenue
Crown Point Indiana 46307

Council Members Present: Melanie Cox, Alfred Fisher, Deborah Harris, Cindy Kambesis, Henry Mosley, Charlotte Pellar, Annette Smith, Kathy Smith for Diane Weiss-Bradley, Lavetta Wade, Lynda Wheeler, Rita Daniels

Council Members Absent: Richard Ban, Jane Bisbee, Mary Beth Bonaventura, Jeffrey Miller, John Sedia, Elizabeth Tegarden

Meeting Minutes

The meeting called to order at 3:44 pm.

The October minutes were corrected to state that Ms. Tegarden was absent from the last meeting. The corrected minutes were then approved by the council members.

Ms. Mary Lou Easter presented information about Independent Living and Transitional Housing. A referral to a Chaffee provider must be completed. The Chaffee Vendor can pay for a deposit and rent. Ms. Easter passed out written material that contained clear definitions of the Independent Living services that can be provided.

Presentations from the agencies who received Child Welfare Service Grants for 2007 were made.

1. The Caring Corner – Francette Williams

The Caring Corner provided classes in Shaken Baby Syndrome and rollover deaths. They have serviced 100 clients and continue to grow. The presentations have been in clinics, they have visited homes and done school presentations. The classes have been given to multi cultural and multi race audiences.

2. YWCA – Mary Cossey

150 children were provided services during the summer. The children were served breakfast and lunch. Swimming lessons were provided. They partnered with Images of Hope and Gary Art Works and the Dunes State Park. They taught practical money skills through a football game. The YWCA received a grant from US Golf and provided golf lessons. Physical fitness was accounted for in dance and aerobics. The end of year event was a show put on by the children “the Wiz”.

3. Gary Improvement – Levon Whitaker

Parent Education Workshops were held which provided information on the new high school graduation requirements and a program called PASS Parents Assuring Student Success. 527 families were served. The Fatherhood initiative provides responsible parenting for Dads. Training workshops provided mentors to men recently incarcerated and to men who were homeless for other reasons. 20 men were served in October, 27 in November at Brother’s Keeper. Parenting Education Classes were held at Gary Neighborhood Services and schools in East Chicago and Gary. The vocation educations served 9 youth teaching them computer skills.

Referrals came from partners and established relations with other agencies.

4. New Life – Pat Simes

The Pathfinder Summer Youth Program conducted classes, educational and cultural field trip activities for 16 students over a 7 week period. Borders Book Store, Museum of Science and Industry, and Fair Oaks Farm are some of the trips taken.

Parenting Skills classes were scheduled in Hammond and East Chicago. Classes were held at IVY Tech for Spanish Speaking Students with children. The name of the class is Common Sense Parenting and Nurturing Parenting workshops. Public Service announcements have been airing on WGVE 88.7 FM in English and Spanish for the Common Sense Parenting.

5. Circle Around Families – Mimi Suggs

Their grant was for “Becoming Relationship Smart” for children age 12 thru 17 in middle and high school. They trained 25 educators. They serviced 1,100 Children. On December 19 training for educators was to be held.

The topics covered were Self Esteem, Toxic Relationships, Peer Pressure. Partnered with other agencies for “Project Respect”.

6. Parents as Teachers

Additional staff has been trained to provide direct services. They have expanded services to target teen parents and families with special needs

children. They have expanded marketing and recruitment activities including a web-site. They are developing along with Dr. Pavkov from Purdue University county-wide data and program evaluation. They have serviced 850 children, 215 families. Any family may attend. 85% are high risk. Referrals come from schools, hospitals, HHW, Community Partners.

7. Boys and Girls Clubs of NWI

The grant monies received were for the programs – SMART Girls and Passport to Manhood. Passport to Manhood is for young males, ages 11-14 to guide them from boyhood to manhood. They had 80 participants from East Chicago, Gary, Cedar Lake, and Hammond. SMART Girls serviced 125 girls in two age groups 8 to 12, and 13 to 17. Both programs include general parenting skills, mentoring, substance abuse programs, and sex education. A conference will be at Purdue to provide college campus exposure to the children.

8. African American Achievers - Vernon Smith

These grant monies provided tutoring and mentoring for boys. The program helps with peer pressure, values, building self esteem, understanding one's uniqueness. They had 40 plus students on Saturdays at IUNW for tutoring and mentoring on a continuing basis. They provided snacks. The children receive a stipend for attending. Middle school students have good attendance. High school students attend when they need monies. The Glen Theater is part of this program. It has been refurbished and 8 events are scheduled. The theater will employ 14. Parents are allowed to attend. If any child needs help, 24 hour help is available.

The next RSC meeting will be January 29, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.